

Application No.: 10/603,924

Docket No.: JCLA7109

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

Applicants would like to thank Examiner for the careful review of this application. The Office Action point out that Applicant inadvertently left out the response to the double patenting rejection on page 6 of the office action mailed on 3/16/05. Claim 5 has been amended. The amendment is fully supported by the original application filed on June 24, 2003. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 31-41 are pending.

DISCUSSION OF OFFICE ACTION REJECTIONS**Response To Double Patenting Rejection**

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 25-30 and 31(21)-36(26) are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of US 6,696,361.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 31-36 the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 of US 6,696,361.

In claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 31-36 of the present invention, the method is further restricted by "providing an inertial mechanical force" to remove contaminants on a surface of the substrate, in addition to "using an aqueous solution of ozone". However, the step of treating the substrate in claim 1 of US 6,696,361 only uses an aqueous solution of ozone. Moreover, claim 1 of the

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present invention is not restrictedly applied to the process of forming a damascenes structure of US 6,696,361. Therefore, Claims 1 and 31 of the present invention and US 6,696,361 are patentably distinct from each other. Thus, Applicants respectfully request the Office Action to withdraw the rejection to claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 31-36.

Applicants have cancelled claims 25-30. Thus, the rejection of claims 25-30 is moot.

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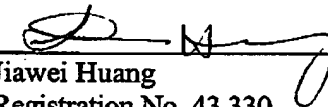
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all pending claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 31-41 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,
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